

DOCUMENTATION FORM  
Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

Species: Brewster's Warbler

Location: My Yard - small acreage in northern Warren County, IA

Habitat: Mixed open woods and field edge with creek and many shrubs

Date(s): 5/11/89

Time: 7:00 am to 7:00 am

Name and Address: Ann Johnson, 532 120th Ave., Norwalk, Iowa 50211

Other observers: none

Describe the bird(s) including only what you observed. Include size, shape, details of all parts (bill, eye, head, neck, back, wing, tail, throat, breast, belly, under-tail, legs, feet). Also mention behavior and voice.

The first noticeable field mark on this medium-sized warbler as it flew into the trees in front of me was its bright yellow-gold cap. The face had a wide black stripe going through the eye. The underparts of the bird were totally white with no traces of yellow anywhere. The back was plain olive colored with no discernible markings and the wings were the same olive color with two yellow wing bars. The bird was actively feeding and, although I did not have much time to observe this bird before it flew, I did see enough field marks to deduce that it was no doubt a Brewster's hybrid of the blue-winged and golden-winged warblers.

Similar species and how eliminated:

The parent birds were eliminated because of the totally white underparts eliminating the blue-winged and the lack of dark throat and narrower eye stripe eliminating the golden-winged. The golden yellow cap reminded me of a chestnut-sided but the lack of streaking on the back and absence of any markings on the side eliminated this bird also. The combination of field marks leaves the Brewster's as the only logical possibility.

Did anyone disagree or have reservations about identification? NA

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:

This bird was seen through 7x26 binoculars at an estimated 75' with sun to the back right. I was high enough on a bank that the tree top was not particularly high which helped in getting good looks almost straight on.

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

30+ years experience in warbler identification, but first Brewster's.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

Peterson's Field Guide to the Birds

How long before field notes made? 30 minutes How long before this form completed? 2 weeks